

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5485

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

:AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 873

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

Z/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 576

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 3242

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, CB

SUBJ: KHMER AT 29TH UNGA: SITREP EVENING SEPT 17

SUMMARY: ASIAN SUPPORTERS OF GKR EARLY EVENING SEPT 17
DECIDED AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN GENERAL COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION TO DEFER DEBATE ON PRO-GRUNK ITEM AND DECIDED
AGAINST ANY EFFORT TO OBTAIN PLENARY VOTE FOR DEFERMENT WHEN
PLENARY CONSIDERS GC REPORT. OTHER PLANNING, INCLUDING
CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS FRIENDLY DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, CONTINUING.
WE BELIEVE DECISION AGAINST ATTEMPTING DEFERRAL AT THIS STAGE
TO BE CORRECT. END SUMMARY.

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1. AS REPORTED SEPARATELY (NOTAL), KHMER PERMREP GHHUT CHHOEUR,
IN CALL ON AMB SCHAUFEL SEPT 16, MENTIONED INTEREST OF

ASEAN REPS IN MAXIMIZING US SUPPORT FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF GKR, INCLUDING GREATER PARTICIPATION IN PLANNING. WE TOLD CHHUT AT THAT MEETING, AND IN FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION, THAT WE HAD SEPT 14 SUGGESTED TO OHTAKA THAT JAPAN/KHMER/US PLANNING TEAM, AS LAST YEAR, BE REINSTITUTED TO FUNCTION IN PARALLEL WITH ASIAN WORKING GROUP. AFTER OUR TALK WITH CHHUT SEPT 16, WE IMMEDIATELY RAISED THIS AGAIN WITH OHTAKA. RESULT WAS THAT WE, KHMER AND JAPANESE MET FOR THREE HOURS EVENING SEPT 16 AT JAPANESE MISSION TO SURVEY OPTIONS, TO MAKE QUICK VOTE COUNTS ON THESE OPTIONS, AND TO DISCUSS DRAFT RESOLUTIONS THAT HAD BEEN INTRODUCED IN AWG, INCLUDING OUR ABILITY TO OBTAIN PRIORITY ON THEM.

2. IT WAS QUITE EVIDENT, BOTH IN OUR PRIVATE TALKS WITH OHTAKA AND AT THIS TRILATERAL MEETING, THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPANESE AND THAI DELS, IN CONTEXT OF AWG, QUITE SENSITIVE AND JAPANESE AT CLOSE OF SEPT 16 MEETING IN EFFECT ASKED US NOT TO VOLUNTEER TO THAIS THAT THE THREE DELS HAD MET. IT WAS CLEAR ALSO THAT ONE ELEMENT OF JAPANESE SENSITIVITY WAS IRRITATION THAT THAIS COUNTINUING TO GIVE SHORT SHRIFT TO JAPANESE PROPOSAL INCLUDING APPEAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS AIDED BY GOOD OFFICES OF SYG.

3. AT SEPT 16 EVENING MEETING CHHUT PRESENTED ESTIMATE OF VOTE ON HOSTILE SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION, GIVING PRO-GRUNK FORCES ONLY TWO VOTE MARGIN. ONE RESULT OF SEPT 16 MEETING WAS AGREEMENT BY THREE DELS THAT GRUNK SUPPORTERS MORE LIKELY TO HAVE MARGIN SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 5 AND 13 VOTES, WITH POSSIBILITY OF MORE UNFAVORABLE MARGIN. IN ANY EVENT, THIS JOINT REVISION OF CHHUT'S ESTIMATE, IN WHICH WE HAD HEAVY INPUT, PROMPTED CHHUT TO STATE THAT WHILE HE HAD IN RECENT DAYS FOUND HOPE THAT GKR SEAT COULD BE PRESERVED BY STRAIGHT VOTE ON SUBSTANCE, HE OBLIGED TO REVERT TO PREMISE THAT ALTERNATIVE PLAN WOULD BE REQUIRED. (AT THIS MEETING, CHHUT REGISTERED CATEGORICAL PERSONAL OPPOSITION TO GERMAN "VACANT SEAT" TACTIC.)

4. WE THEN TOOK OUR REVISED ESTIMATE OF VOTE ON SUBSTANCE AND PRELIMINARILY CALCULATED HOW MUCH OF THE PRO-GRUNK MARGIN
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ON SUBSTANCE MIGHT BE REDUCED IF GA WERE OFFERED CONCURRENTLY OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE ON RESOLUTION OF TYPE PROPOSED BY JAPANESE. WE CONCLUDED THAT, LEAVING ASIDE QUESTION OF PRIORITY FOR JAPANESE DRAFT, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH UNLIKELY, TO OBTAIN FAVORABLE MARGIN OF ONE OR TWO FOR THIS TYPE OF FRIENDLY DRAFT.

5. THREE DELS AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAD NO EVIDENCE THAT JAPANESE-TYPR DRAFT COULD OBTAIN PRIORITY.

6. AT THIS MEETING, WE ALSO DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF GKR SUPPORTERS USING JAPANESE DRAFT, IN EFFECT, AS VEHICLE TO COUNTER SUBSTANTIVE DRAFT UNTIL LAST MOMENT WHEN "NEUTRAL" DELEGATION WOULD, AT PROMPTING OF FRIENDLY ASIANS, INTRODUCE FACT-FINDING RESOLUTION. (THIS TEXT, WHICH HAS BEEN SLIGHTLY REVISED, REPORTED USUN 3146.) AGAIN, HOWEVER, IT WAS AGREED THAT WE COULD NOT BE CERTAIN AT ALL OF ABILITY TO OBTAIN PRIORITY FOR SUCH A RESOLUTION.

7. AT CLOSE OF EVENING SEPT 16 MEETING, THREE DELS AGREED ON ADVISABILITY OF MEETING SEPT 17 WITH THAI AND PERHAPS OTHER ASIAN GROUP MEMBERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION, DESIGNED TO PREPARE ASIAN AMBASSADORS, WHO SCHEDULED MEET AFTERNOON SEPT 17, TO CRYSTALIZE PLANS FOR TACTICS IN GENERAL COMMITTEE SCHEDULED MEET SEPT 19.

8. PARTICIPANTS IN SEPT 16 MEETING INCLUDED JAPAN AND US STAFF AND GKR PERMREP CHHUT CHHOEUR, FORMER PERMREP VUTTHI, WHO HAS BEEN REASSIGNED HERE FOR GA, AND GKR STAFF.

9. MORNING SEPT 17 THREE DELS (AUGMENTED BY GKR AMB TO WASHINGTON UM SIM) MET UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF THAI DEPUTY WITH ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION OF NEW ZEALAND DEPUTY. IN RESPONSE TO THAI WELCOME OF US DEL PARTICIPATION, MISOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS FIRMNESS OF US SUPPORT FOR GKR. WE SOUGHT TO CLARIFY, PRINCIPALLY FOR THAI'S BENEFIT, FACT THAT OUR POSTURE ON KHMER IN NEW YORK (NON-PARTICIPATION) IN AWG PLANNING SESSIONS) WAS IN RESPONSE TO ASEAN JUDGEMENT THIS YEAR, AS LAST, THAT MOST EFFECTIVE MODALITY IN SUPPORT OF GKR WAS ASIANS BEING OUT FRONT WITH US STRONG SUPPORT HERE AND IN CAPITALS. WE EMPHASIZED OUR CONTINUED VIGOROUS OPPOSITION TO PRO-GRUNK
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EFFORTS AND CITED SECRETARY'S STRONG PERSONAL MESSAGES RECENTLY DELIVERED IN CAPITALS.

10. THAI, WHO UNAWARE OF THREE DELEGATION MEETING PREVIOUS EVENING, EXPLAINED TENTATIVE AWG PLAN TO USE JAPANESE DRAFT AND, LATER, "NEUTRAL" FACT-FINDING DRAFT AND SOUGHT TO FOCUS MEETING ON OUR ABILITY, IN PLENARY CONSIDERATION OF INSCRIPTION, TO OBTAIN DEFERMENT. HE TABLED ESTIMATE OF VOTE IN GENERAL COMITE WHICH INCLUDED SUPPORT FOR DEFERAL BY SEVERAL GENERAL COMITE MEMBERS WHOSE SUPPORT WE FELT TO BE DOUBTFUL. WE PRESSED FOR RE-ESTIMATE OF GENERAL COMITE VOTE SINCE WE FELT THAI OPERATING ON RISKY ASSUMPTION THAT GENERAL COMITE VOTE FOR DEFERMENT, IF ONLY BY FAVORABLE MAJORITY OF ONE, COULD BE OBTAINED. ON THIS TOPIC, BY END OF MEETING, GROUP AGREED THAT, BEFORE ASIAN AMBASSADORS' MEETING IN LATE AFTERNOON, WE AND OTHERS WOULD SELECTIVELY SOUND OUT DELS THAT THAI HAD SHOWN AS SUPPORTING DEFERRAL IN GENERAL COMITE BUT ABOUT WHICH WE AND (IN LOW KEY) JAPAN DISPLAYED DOUBTS.

11. WE THEN TURNED TO COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ESTIMATE MADE OF HOW PLENARY WOULD VOTE ON DEFERRAL IF THE GENERAL COMITE WERE, AFTER ALL, TO RECOMMEND DEFERRAL. WE CONCLUDED THAT BEST, SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE, ESTIMATE WOULD BE THAT PLENARY WOULD OVERTURN GENERAL COMITE RECOMMENDATION FOR DEFERRAL BY 5 VOTES (DETAILED ESTIMATE DATAFAXED IO/UNP).

12. AT THIS MEETING WE, JOINED BY JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND, INSISTED ON IMPORTANCE OF ASIAN AMBASSADORS, IN AFTERNOON MEETING, MAKING AT LEAST TENTATIVE DECISION ON TACTICS FOR GENERAL COMITE, INCLUDING NEW VOTE ESTIMATE; QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT WE WOULD SEEK VOTE FOR DEFERRAL (FOR SYMBOLIC PURPOSES) AS WE DID LAST YEAR; WHETHER ASEAN REP (PHILIPPINES) SHOULD SPEAK; WHETHER GKR FONMIN SHOULD SPEAK (AT RISK OF PROCEDURAL BATTLE TO PERMIT HIM TO DO SO); AND WHETHER OR NOT ASEANS WOULD WISH US TO SPEAK. COMMON ELEMENT IN THESE QUESTIONS WAS SHARED CONCERN THAT WHATEVER GKR SUPPORTERS WOULD DO IN GENERAL COMITE WOULD INFLUENCE NOT ONLY PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE OF PLENARY CONSIDERATION OF INSCRIPTION QUESTION BUT ALSO ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH PRO-GRUNK ITEM WOULD BE LATER TAKEN UP IN PLENARY SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE.

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 EUR-10 ARA-10 EA-13

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 3242

LIMDIS

13. WE ALSO AGREED AT MORNING SEPT 17 MEETING THAT, ASSUMING WE DID NOT ACHIEVE INITIAL PLENARY DECISION TO DEFER ITEM, IT WOULD BE IN GKR'S INTEREST TO HAVE SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE COME AS LATE ON PLENARY AGENDA AS POSSIBLE. ASIDE FROM FACT THAT HTIS WOULD GIVE GKR AND SUPPORTERS MORE TIME FOR LOBBYING ON BASIS OF WHATEVER FRIENDLY RES WOULD BE TABLED, GKR AMB UM SIM POINTED OUT THAT DELAY HOPEFULLY WOULD GIVE TIME FOR SITUATION ON GROUND IN CAMBODIA TO IMPROVE IN MANNER THAT MIGHT INFLUENCE GA VOTING.

14. ASAIN AMBASSADORS MET IMMEDIATELY AFTER OPENING 29TH GA PLENARY CEREMONIES AFTERNOON SEPT 17. JAPANESE MINISTER OHTAKA, WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN EARLIER MEETINGS, WITH US, CONFIDENTIAL
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INFORMED US EVENING SEPT 17 THAT KHMER FONMIN PARTICIPATED IN AMBASSADORIAL MEETING.

15. OHTAKA SAID THAIS REPORTED THAT WHILE EARLIER ESTIMATE OF GENERAL COMMITTEE VOTE FOR DEFERRAL HAD SHOWED POSSIBILITY OF FAVORABLE GC RECOMMENDATION, SOUNDINGS TAKEN SINCE MORNING STAFF LEVEL MEETING HAD OBLIGED CONCLUSION THAT GKR SUPPORTERS COULD NOT OBTAIN SUCH GC RECOMMENDATION IN ABSENCE OF UNLIKELY CHANGES IN SEVERAL GC MEMBERS POSITIONS. ASIAN AMBASSADORS THEREFORE AGREED TO PROCEED TO PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

16. OHTAKA SAID ASIAN AMBASSADORS QUICKLY MADE FOLLOWING FURTHER DECISIONS ON GC TACTICS, SUBJECT TO REVISION DURING DAY, SEPT 18:

(A) IF GRUNK SUPPORTERS IN GC MAKE NO EFFORT IN GC TO DISCUSS ITEM, GKR SUPPORTERS WILL ALSO REMAIN SILENT, PASSIVELY PERMITTING GC CONSENSUS.

(B) IF GRUNK SUPPORTERS SPEAK, THEN GKR SUPPORTERS WILL SEPAK.

(C) PHILIPPINE DEL (WHICH WE KNOW IS RELUCTANT TO SPEAK OUT IN GC THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH IT DID MAKE A VERY STRONG STATEMENT LAST YEAR IN GC) WILL LEAD OFF GC SUPPORT FOR GKR IF DEBATE REQUIRED.

(D) IF PHILIPPINES SPEAK, US SHOULD SPEAK ALSO. (WE

EARLIER HAD ASSURED ASIAN COLLEAGUES THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO SEPAK IN GC AS REQUIRED.) OTHER FRIENDLY DELS WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO SPEAK ON KHMER BEHALF.

(E) GKR SUPPORTERS WOULD NOT FORCE VOTE IN GC, BUT WOULD LIMIT THEMSELVES TO GENERAL STATEMENTS OF OPPOSITION TO PRO-GRUNK EFFORT AND STRESS NEED FOR TWO PARTIES TO PROCEED WITH TALKS.

(F) IF OPPOSITION PRESSES GC TO VOTE ON INSCRIPTION, PROBABLY PHILIPPINES AND HOPEFULLY US AND PERHAPS OTHER FRIENDLIES WOULD VOTE AGAINST.

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17. NO DECISION WAS MADE, SINCE GKR REPS DID NOT MAKE POSITION CLEAR, AS TO WHETHER OR NOT GKR FONMIN WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN GC AGREEMENT (WITH POSSIBLE BATTLE) TO HIS PARTICIPATION N GC DEBATE.

18. REGARDING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, ASIAN AMBASSADORS CHARGED JAPAN AND SINGAPORE TO GIVE FURTHER STUDY TO JAPANESE DRAFT AND REPORT BACK TO LARGER GROUP AT LATER STAGE (AFTER PLENARY VOTE ON INSCRIPTION). AT THAT POINT ASIANS WOULD GIVE FURTHER CONSIDERATION TO TACTICS FOR 29TH GA.
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